

**VOICES**

OF

**THE NIGHT.**

---

BY

**HENRY W. LONGFELLOW,**

AUTHOR OF "HYPERION," "OUTRE MER," "BALLADS, AND OTHER POEMS."

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BY  
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

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REDDING AND COMPANY.  
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# CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
VOICES OF THE NIGHT.		TO-MORROW . . . . .	23
PRELUDE . . . . .	7	THE NATIVE LAND . . . . .	23
HYMN TO THE NIGHT . . . . .	8	THE IMAGE OF GOD . . . . .	24
A PSALM OF LIFE . . . . .	8	THE BROOK . . . . .	24
THE REAPER AND THE FLOWERS . . . . .	9	THE CELESTIAL PILOT . . . . .	24
THE LIGHT OF STARS . . . . .	9	THE TERRESTRIAL PARADISE . . . . .	25
FOOTSTEPS OF ANGELS . . . . .	10	BEATRICE . . . . .	25
FLOWERS . . . . .	10	SPRING . . . . .	26
THE BELEAGUERED CITY . . . . .	11	THE CHILD ASLEEP . . . . .	26
MIDNIGHT MASS FOR THE DYING YEAR . . . . .	12	THE GRAVE . . . . .	27
EARLIER POEMS.		KING CHRISTIAN . . . . .	27
AN APRIL DAY . . . . .	13	THE HAPPIEST LAND . . . . .	28
AUTUMN . . . . .	13	THE WAVE . . . . .	28
WOODS IN WINTER . . . . .	14	THE DEAD . . . . .	28
HYMN OF THE MORAVIAN NUNS OF BETH- LEHEM . . . . .	14	THE BIRD AND THE SHIP . . . . .	28
SUNRISE ON THE HILLS . . . . .	15	WHITHER? . . . . .	29
THE SPIRIT OF POETRY . . . . .	15	BEWARE! . . . . .	29
BURIAL OF THE MINNISINK . . . . .	16	SONG OF THE BELL . . . . .	30
TRANSLATIONS.		THE CASTLE BY THE SEA . . . . .	30
COPLAS DE MANRIQUE . . . . .	17	THE BLACK KNIGHT . . . . .	30
THE GOOD SHEPHERD . . . . .	23	SONG OF THE SILENT LAND . . . . .	31
		~~~~~	
		L'ENVOI . . . . .	32

## VOICES OF THE NIGHT.

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### PRELUDE.

---

PLEASANT it was, when woods were green,  
And winds were soft and low,  
To lie amid some sylvan scene,  
Where, the long drooping boughs between,  
Shadows dark and sunlight sheen  
Alternate come and go ;

Or where the denser grove receives  
No sunlight from above,  
But the dark foliage interweaves  
In one unbroken roof of leaves,  
Underneath whose sloping eaves  
The shadows hardly move.

Beneath some patriarchal tree  
I lay upon the ground ;  
His hoary arms uplifted he,  
And all the broad leaves over me  
Clapped their little hands in glee,  
With one continuous sound ; —

A slumberous sound, — a sound that brings  
The feelings of a dream, —  
As of innumerable wings,  
As, when a bell no longer swings,  
Faint the hollow murmur rings  
O'er meadow, lake, and stream.

And dreams of that which cannot die,  
Bright visions, came to me,  
As lapped in thought I used to lie,  
And gaze into the summer sky,  
Where the sailing clouds went by,  
Like ships upon the sea ;

Dreams that the soul of youth engage  
Ere Fancy has been quelled ;  
Old legends of the monkish page,  
Traditions of the saint and sage,  
Tales that have the rime of age,  
And chronicles of Eld.

And, loving still these quaint old themes,  
Even in the city's throng  
I feel the freshness of the streams,  
That, crossed by shades and sunny gleams,  
Water the green land of dreams,  
The holy land of song.

Therefore, at Pentecost, which brings  
The Spring, clothed like a bride,  
When nestling buds unfold their wings,  
And bishop's-caps have golden rings,  
Musing upon many things,  
I sought the woodlands wide.

The green trees whispered low and mild ;  
It was a sound of joy !  
They were my playmates when a child,  
And rocked me in their arms so wild !  
Still they looked at me and smiled,  
As if I were a boy ;

And ever whispered, mild and low,  
" Come, be a child once more ! "  
And waved their long arms to and fro,  
And beckoned solemnly and slow ;  
O, I could not choose but go  
Into the woodlands hoar ;

Into the blithe and breathing air,  
Into the solemn wood,  
Solemn and silent everywhere !  
Nature with folded hands seemed there,  
Kneeling at her evening prayer !  
Like one in prayer I stood.

Before me rose an avenue  
Of tall and sombreous pines ;  
Abroad their fan-like branches grew,  
And, where the sunshine darted through,  
Spread a vapor soft and blue,  
In long and sloping lines.

And, falling on my weary brain,  
Like a fast-falling shower,  
The dreams of youth came back again ;

Low lisplings of the summer rain,  
Dropping on the ripened grain,  
As once upon the flower.

Visions of childhood! Stay, O stay!  
Ye were so sweet and wild!  
And distant voices seemed to say,  
"It cannot be! They pass away!  
Other themes demand thy lay;  
Thou art no more a child!

"The land of Song within thee lies,  
Watered by living springs;  
The lids of Fancy's sleepless eyes  
Are gates unto that Paradise,  
Holy thoughts, like stars, arise,  
Its clouds are angels' wings.

"Learn, that henceforth thy song shall be,  
Not mountains capped with snow,  
Nor forests sounding like the sea,  
Nor rivers flowing ceaselessly,  
Where the woodlands bend to see  
The bending heavens below.

"There is a forest where the din  
Of iron branches sounds!  
A mighty river roars between,  
And whosoever looks therein,  
Sees the heavens all black with sin,—  
Sees not its depths, nor bounds.

"Athwart the swinging branches cast,  
Soft rays of sunshine pour;  
Then comes the fearful wintry blast,  
Our hopes, like withered leaves, fall fast;  
Pallid lips say, 'It is past!  
We can return no more!'

"Look, then, into thine heart, and write!  
Yes, into Life's deep stream!  
All forms of sorrow and delight,  
All solemn Voices of the Night,  
That can soothe thee, or affright,—  
Be these henceforth thy theme."

#### HYMN TO THE NIGHT.

I HEARD the trailing garments of the Night  
Sweep through her marble halls!

I saw her sable skirts all fringed with light  
From the celestial walls!

I felt her presence, by its spell of might,  
Stoop o'er me from above;  
The calm, majestic presence of the Night,  
As of the one I love.

I heard the sounds of sorrow and delight,  
The manifold, soft chimes,  
That fill the haunted chambers of the Night,  
Like some old poet's rhymes.

From the cool cisterns of the midnight air  
My spirit drank repose;  
The fountain of perpetual peace flows there,—  
From those deep cisterns flows.

O holy Night! from thee I learn to bear  
What man has borne before!  
Thou layest thy finger on the lips of Care,  
And they complain no more.

Peace! Peace! Orestes-like I breathe this  
prayer!

Descend with broad-winged flight,  
The welcome, the thrice-prayed-for, the most  
fair,  
The best-beloved Night!

#### A PSALM OF LIFE.

WHAT THE HEART OF THE YOUNG MAN SAID TO THE  
PSALMIST.

TELL me not, in mournful numbers,  
Life is but an empty dream!  
For the soul is dead that slumbers,  
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,  
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,  
Is our destined end or way;  
But to act, that each to-morrow  
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,  
And our hearts, though stout and brave,



Still, like muffled drums, are beating  
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of Life,  
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!  
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!  
Let the dead Past bury its dead!  
Act,—act in the living Present!  
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footsteps on the sands of time;

Footsteps, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.

### THE REAPER AND THE FLOWERS.

THERE is a Reaper, whose name is Death,  
And, with his sickle keen,  
He reaps the bearded grain at a breath,  
And the flowers that grow between.

"Shall I have naught that is fair?" saith he;  
"Have naught but the bearded grain!  
Though the breath of these flowers is sweet to  
me,  
I will give them all back again."

He gazed at the flowers with tearful eyes,  
He kissed their drooping leaves;  
It was for the Lord of Paradise  
He bound them in his sheaves.

"My Lord has need of these flowerets gay,"  
The Reaper said, and smiled;  
"Dear tokens of the earth are they,  
Where he was once a child."

"They shall all bloom in fields of light,  
Transplanted by my care,  
And saints, upon their garments white,  
These sacred blossoms wear."

And the mother gave, in tears and pain,  
The flowers she most did love;  
She knew she should find them all again  
In the fields of light above.

O, not in cruelty, not in wrath,  
The Reaper came that day;  
'T was an angel visited the green earth,  
And took the flowers away.

### THE LIGHT OF STARS.

THE night is come, but not too soon;  
And sinking silently,  
All silently, the little moon  
Drops down behind the sky.

There is no light in earth or heaven,  
But the cold light of stars;  
And the first watch of night is given  
To the red planet Mars.

Is it the tender star of love?  
The star of love and dreams!  
O, no! from that blue tent above,  
A hero's armor gleams.

And earnest thoughts within me rise,  
When I behold afar,  
Suspended in the evening skies,  
The shield of that red star.

O star of strength! I see thee stand  
And smile upon my pain;  
Thou beckonest with thy mailed hand,  
And I am strong again.

Within my breast there is no light,  
But the cold light of stars;  
I give the first watch of the night  
To the red planet Mars.

The star of the unconquered will,  
He rises in my breast,  
Serene, and resolute, and still,  
And calm, and self-possessed.

And thou, too, whosoe'er thou art,  
That readest this brief psalm,  
As one by one thy hopes depart,  
Be resolute and calm.

O, fear not in a world like this,  
And thou shalt know ere long,  
Know how sublime a thing it is  
To suffer and be strong.

---

### FOOTSTEPS OF ANGELS.

---

WHEN the hours of Day are numbered,  
And the voices of the Night  
Wake the better soul, that slumbered,  
To a holy, calm delight ;

Ere the evening lamps are lighted,  
And, like phantoms grim and tall,  
Shadows from the fitful fire-light  
Dance upon the parlour-wall ;

Then the forms of the departed  
Enter at the open door ;  
The beloved, the true-hearted,  
Come to visit me once more ;

He, the young and strong, who cherished  
Noble longings for the strife,  
By the road-side fell and perished,  
Weary with the march of life !

They, the holy ones and weakly,  
Who the cross of suffering bore,  
Folded their pale hands so meekly,  
Spake with us on earth no more !

And with them the Being Beauteous,  
Who unto my youth was given,  
More than all things else to love me,  
And is now a saint in heaven.

With a slow and noiseless footstep  
Comes that messenger divine,  
Takes the vacant chair beside me,  
Lays her gentle hand in mine.

And she sits and gazes at me  
With those deep and tender eyes,  
Like the stars, so still and saint-like,  
Looking downward from the skies.

Uttered not, yet comprehended,  
Is the spirit's voiceless prayer,  
Soft rebukes, in blessings ended,  
Breathing from her lips of air.

O, though oft depressed and lonely,  
All my fears are laid aside,  
If I but remember only  
Such as these have lived and died !

---

### FLOWERS.

---

Spake full well, in language quaint and olden,  
One who dwelleth by the castled Rhine,  
When he called the flowers, so blue and golden,  
Stars, that in earth's firmament do shine.

Stars they are, wherein we read our history,  
As astrologers and seers of old ;  
Yet not wrapped about with awful mystery,  
Like the burning stars, which they beheld.

Wondrous truths, and manifold as wondrous,  
God hath written in those stars above ;  
But not less in the bright flowerets under us  
Stands the revelation of his love.

Bright and glorious is that revelation,  
Written all over this great world of ours ;  
Making evident our own creation,  
In these stars of earth,—these golden flowers.

And the Poet, faithful and far-seeing,  
Sees, alike in stars and flowers, a part  
Of the selfsame, universal being,  
Which is throbbing in his brain and heart.

Gorgeous flowerets in the sunlight shining,  
Blossoms flaunting in the eye of day,  
Tremulous leaves, with soft and silver lining,  
Buds that open only to decay ;

Brilliant hopes, all woven in gorgeous tissues,  
Flaunting gayly in the golden light ;  
Large desires, with most uncertain issues,  
Tender wishes, blossoming at night !

These in flowers and men are more than seem-  
ing ;  
Workings are they of the selfsame powers,

Which the Poet, in no idle dreaming,  
Seeth in himself and in the flowers.

Everywhere about us are they glowing,  
Some like stars, to tell us Spring is born ;  
Others, their blue eyes with tears o'erflowing,  
Stand like Ruth amid the golden corn ;

Not alone in Spring's armorial bearing,  
And in Summer's green-emblazoned field,  
But in arms of brave old Autumn's wearing,  
In the centre of his brazen shield ;

Not alone in meadows and green alleys,  
On the mountain-top, and by the brink  
Of sequestered pools in woodland valleys,  
Where the slaves of Nature stoop to drink ;

Not alone in her vast dome of glory,  
Not on graves of bird and beast alone,  
But in old cathedrals, high and hoary,  
On the tombs of heroes, carved in stone ;

In the cottage of the rudest peasant,  
In ancestral homes, whose crumbling towers,  
Speaking of the Past unto the Present,  
Tell us of the ancient Games of Flowers ;

In all places, then, and in all seasons,  
Flowers expand their light and soul-like  
wings,  
Teaching us, by most persuasive reasons,  
How akin they are to human things.

And with childlike, credulous affection  
We behold their tender buds expand ;  
Emblems of our own great resurrection,  
Emblems of the bright and better land.

---

### THE BELEAGUERED CITY.

---

I HAVE read, in some old marvellous tale,  
Some legend strange and vague,  
That a midnight host of spectres pale  
Beleaguered the walls of Prague.

Beside the Moldau's rushing stream,  
With the wan moon overhead,

There stood, as in an awful dream,  
The army of the dead.

White as a sea-fog, landward bound,  
The spectral camp was seen,  
And, with a sorrowful, deep sound,  
The river flowed between.

No other voice nor sound was there,  
No drum, nor sentry's pace ;  
The mist-like banners clasped the air,  
As clouds with clouds embrace.

But, when the old cathedral bell  
Proclaimed the morning prayer,  
The white pavilions rose and fell  
On the alarmed air.

Down the broad valley fast and far  
The troubled army fled ;  
Up rose the glorious morning star,  
The ghastly host was dead.

I have read, in the marvellous heart of man,  
That strange and mystic scroll,  
That an army of phantoms vast and wan  
Beleaguer the human soul.

Encamped beside Life's rushing stream,  
In Fancy's misty light,  
Gigantic shapes and shadows gleam  
Portentous through the night.

Upon its midnight battle-ground  
The spectral camp is seen,  
And, with a sorrowful, deep sound,  
Flows the River of Life between.

No other voice nor sound is there,  
In the army of the grave ;  
No other challenge breaks the air,  
But the rushing of Life's wave.

And, when the solemn and deep church-bell  
Entreats the soul to pray,  
The midnight phantoms feel the spell,  
The shadows sweep away.

Down the broad Vale of Tears afar  
The spectral camp is fled ;  
Faith shineth as a morning star,  
Our ghastly fears are dead.

# MIDNIGHT MASS FOR THE DYING YEAR.

Yes, the Year is growing old,  
And his eye is pale and bleared !  
Death, with frosty hand and cold,  
Plucks the old man by the beard,  
Sorely, — sorely !

The leaves are falling, falling,  
Solemnly and slow ;  
“ Caw ! caw ! ” the rooks are calling, —  
It is a sound of woe,  
A sound of woe !

Through woods and mountain passes  
The winds, like anthems, roll ;  
They are chanting solemn masses,  
Singing ; “ Pray for this poor soul,  
Pray, — pray ! ”

And the hooded clouds, like friars,  
Tell their beads in drops of rain,  
And patter their doleful prayers ; —  
But their prayers are all in vain,  
All in vain !

There he stands in the foul weather,  
The foolish, fond Old Year,  
Crowned with wild flowers and with heath-  
er,  
Like weak, despised Lear,  
A king, — a king !

Then comes the summer-like day,  
Bids the old man rejoice !

His joy ! his last ! O, the old man gray,  
Loveth that ever-soft voice,  
Gentle and low.

To the crimson woods he saith, —  
To the voice gentle and low  
Of the soft air, like a daughter's breath, —  
“ Pray do not mock me so !  
Do not laugh at me ! ”

And now the sweet day is dead ;  
Cold in his arms it lies ;  
No stain from its breath is spread  
Over the glassy skies,  
No mist or stain !

Then, too, the Old Year dieth,  
And the forests-utter a moan,  
Like the voice of one who crieth  
In the wilderness alone,  
“ Vex not his ghost ! ”

Then comes, with an awful roar,  
Gathering and sounding on,  
The storm-wind from Labrador,  
The wind Euroclydon,  
The storm-wind !

Howl ! howl ! and from the forest  
Sweep the red leaves away !  
Would the sins that thou abhorrest,  
O Soul, could thus decay,  
And be swept away !

For there shall come a mightier blast,  
There shall be a darker day ;  
And the stars, from heaven down-cast,  
Like red leaves be swept away !  
Kyrie ; eleyson !  
Christe, eleyson !

EARLIER POEMS.

[These poems were written for the most part during my college life, and all of them before the age of nineteen. Some have found their way into schools, and seem to be successful. Others lead a vagabond and precarious existence in the corners of newspapers; or have changed their names and run away to seek their fortunes beyond the sea. I say, with the Bishop of Avranches, on a similar occasion; "I cannot be displeased to see these children of mine, which I have neglected, and almost exposed, brought from their wanderings in lanes and alleys, and safely lodged, in order to go forth into the world together in a more decorous garb."]

AN APRIL DAY.

WHEN the warm sun, that brings  
Seedtime and harvest, has returned again,  
'Tis sweet to visit the still wood, where springs  
The first flower of the plain.

I love the season well,  
When forest glades are teeming with bright  
forms,  
Nor dark and many-folded clouds foretell  
The coming-on of storms.

From the earth's loosened mould  
The sapling draws its sustenance, and thrives;  
Though stricken to the heart with winter's cold,  
The drooping tree revives.

The softly-warbled song  
Comes from the pleasant woods, and colored  
wings  
Glance quick in the bright sun, that moves  
along  
The forest openings.

When the bright sunset fills  
The silver woods with light, the green slope  
throws  
Its shadows in the hollows of the hills,  
And wide the upland glows.

And, when the eve is born,  
In the blue lake the sky, o'er-reaching far,  
Is hollowed out, and the moon dips her horn,  
And twinkles many a star.

Inverted in the tide  
Stand the gray rocks, and trembling shadows  
throw,  
And the fair trees look over, side by side,  
And see themselves below.

Sweet April! — many a thought  
Is wedded unto thee, as hearts are wed;  
Nor shall they fail, till, to its autumn brought,  
Life's golden fruit is shed.

AUTUMN.

WITH what a glory comes and goes the year!  
The buds of spring, those beautiful harbingers  
Of sunny skies and cloudless times, enjoy  
Life's newness, and earth's garniture spread  
out;

And when the silver habit of the clouds  
Comes down upon the autumn sun, and with  
A sober gladness the old year takes up  
His bright inheritance of golden fruits,  
A pomp and pageant fill the splendid scene.

There is a beautiful spirit breathing now  
Its mellow richness on the clustered trees,  
And, from a beaker full of richest dyes,  
Pouring new glory on the autumn woods,  
And dipping in warm light the pillared clouds.  
Morn on the mountain, like a summer bird,  
Lifts up her purple wing, and in the vales  
The gentle wind, a sweet and passionate wooer,  
Kisses the blushing leaf, and stirs up life  
Within the solemn woods of ash, deep-crim-  
soned,

And silver beech, and maple yellow-leaved,  
Where autumn, like a faint old man, sits down  
By the wayside a-weary. Through the trees  
The golden robin moves. The purple finch,

Then this crimson flag shall be  
 Martial cloak and shroud for thee."

The warrior took that banner proud,  
 And it was his martial cloak and shroud !

SUNRISE ON THE HILLS.

I stood upon the hills, when heaven's wide  
 arch

Was glorious with the sun's returning march,  
 And woods were brightened, and soft gales  
 Went forth to kiss the sun-clad vales.

The clouds were far beneath me ; — bathed in  
 light,

They gathered midway round the wooded  
 height,

And, in their fading glory, shone

Like hosts in battle overthrown,

As many a pinnacle, with shifting glance,

Through the gray mist thrust up its shattered  
 lance,

And rocking on the cliff was left

The dark pine blasted, bare, and cleft.

The veil of cloud was lifted, and below

Glowed the rich valley, and the river's flow

Was darkened by the forest's shade,

Or glistened in the white cascade ;

Where upward, in the mellow blush of day,

The noisy bittern wheeled his spiral way.

I heard the distant waters dash,

I saw the current whirl and flash, —

And richly, by the blue lake's silver beach,

The woods were bending with a silent reach.

Then o'er the vale, with gentle swell,

The music of the village bell

Came sweetly to the echo-giving hills ;

And the wild horn, whose voice the woodland  
 fills,

Was ringing to the merry shout,

That faint and far the glen sent out,

Where, answering to the sudden shot, thin  
 smoke,

Through thick-leaved branches, from the din-  
 gle broke.

If thou art worn and hard beset

With sorrows, that thou wouldst forget,

If thou wouldst read a lesson, that will keep  
 Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from  
 sleep,

Go to the woods and hills ! — No tears

Dim the sweet look that Nature wears.

THE SPIRIT OF POETRY.

THERE is a quiet spirit in these woods,

That dwells where'er the gentle south wind  
 blows ;

Where, underneath the white-thorn, in the  
 glade,

The wild flowers bloom, or, kissing the soft  
 air,

The leaves above their sunny palms outspread.

With what a tender and impassioned voice

It fills the nice and delicate ear of thought,

When the fast-ushering star of morning comes

O'er-riding the gray hills with golden scarf ;

Or when the cowed and dusky-sandalled Eve,

In mourning weeds, from out the western gate,

Departs with silent pace ! That spirit moves

In the green valley, where the silver brook,

From its full laver, pours the white cascade ;

And, babbling low amid the tangled woods,

Slips down through moss-grown stones with  
 endless laughter.

And frequent, on the everlasting hills,

Its feet go forth, when it doth wrap itself

In all the dark embroidery of the storm,

And shouts the stern, strong wind. And here,  
 amid

The silent majesty of these deep woods,

Its presence shall uplift thy thoughts from  
 earth,

As to the sunshine and the pure, bright air

Their tops the green trees lift. Hence gifted  
 bards

Have ever loved the calm and quiet shades.

For them there was an eloquent voice in all

The sylvan pomp of woods, the golden sun,

The flowers, the leaves, the river on its way,

Blue skies, and silver clouds, and gentle  
 winds, —

The swelling upland, where the sidelong sun

Aslant the wooded slope, at evening, goes, —

Groves, through whose broken roof the sky  
 looks in,

Mountain, and shattered cliff, and sunny vale,  
The distant lake, fountains, — and mighty  
trees,  
In many a lazy syllable, repeating  
Their old poetic legends to the wind.

And this is the sweet spirit, that doth fill  
The world; and, in these wayward days of  
youth,

My busy fancy oft embodies it,  
As a bright image of the light and beauty  
That dwell in nature, — of the heavenly forms  
We worship in our dreams, and the soft hues  
That stain the wild bird's wing, and flush the  
clouds

When the sun sets. Within her eye  
The heaven of April, with its changing light,  
And when it wears the blue of May, is hung,  
And on her lip the rich, red rose. Her hair  
Is like the summer tresses of the trees,  
When twilight makes them brown, and on her  
cheek

Blushes the richness of an autumn sky,  
With ever-shifting beauty. Then her breath,  
It is so like the gentle air of Spring,  
As, from the morning's dewy flowers, it comes  
Full of their fragrance, that it is a joy  
To have it round us, — and her silver voice  
Is the rich music of a summer bird,  
Heard in the still night, with its passionate  
cadence.

#### BURIAL OF THE MINNISINK.

On sunny slope and beechen swell,  
The shadowed light of evening fell;  
And, where the maple's leaf was brown,  
With soft and silent lapse came down  
The glory, that the wood receives,  
At sunset, in its brazen leaves.

Far upward in the mellow light  
Rose the blue hills. One cloud of white,

Around a far uplifted cone,  
In the warm blush of evening shone;  
An image of the silver lakes,  
By which the Indian's soul awakes.

But soon a funeral hymn was heard  
Where the soft breath of evening stirred  
The tall, gray forest; and a band  
Of stern in heart, and strong in hand,  
Came winding down beside the wave,  
To lay the red chief in his grave.

They sang, that by his native bowers  
He stood, in the last moon of flowers,  
And thirty snows had not yet shed  
Their glory on the warrior's head;  
But, as the summer fruit decays,  
So died he in those naked days.

A dark cloak of the roebuck's skin  
Covered the warrior, and within  
Its heavy folds the weapons, made  
For the hard toils of war, were laid;  
The cuirass, woven of plaited reeds,  
And the broad belt of shells and beads.

Before, a dark-haired virgin train  
Chanted the death dirge of the slain;  
Behind, the long procession came  
Of hoary men and chiefs of fame,  
With heavy hearts, and eyes of grief,  
Leading the war-horse of their chief.

Stripped of his proud and martial dress,  
Uncurbed, unreined, and riderless,  
With darting eye, and nostril spread,  
And heavy and impatient tread,  
He came; and oft that eye so proud  
Asked for his rider in the crowd.

They buried the dark chief; they freed  
Beside the grave his battle steed;  
And swift an arrow cleaved its way  
To his stern heart! One piercing neigh  
Arose, — and, on the dead man's plain,  
The rider grasps his steed again.



## TRANSLATIONS.

[Don Jorge Manrique, the author of the following poem, flourished in the last half of the fifteenth century. He followed the profession of arms, and died on the field of battle. Mariana, in his History of Spain, makes honorable mention of him, as being present at the siege of Uclés; and speaks of him as "a youth of estimable qualities, who in this war gave brilliant proofs of his valor. He died young; and was thus cut off from long exercising his great virtues, and exhibiting to the world the light of his genius, which was already known to fame." He was mortally wounded in a skirmish near Cañavete, in the year 1479.

The name of Rodrigo Manrique, the father of the poet, Conde de Paredes and Maestre de Santiago, is well known in Spanish history and song. He died in 1476; according to Mariana, in the town of Uclés; but, according to the poem of his son, in Ocaña. It was his death that called forth the poem upon which rests the literary reputation of the younger Manrique. In the language of his historian, "Don Jorge Manrique, in an elegant Ode, full of poetic beauties, rich embellishments of genius, and high moral reflections, mourned the death of his father as with a funeral hymn." This praise is not exaggerated. The poem is a model in its kind. Its conception is solemn and beautiful; and, in accordance with it, the style moves on,—calm, dignified, and majestic.]

## COPLAS DE MANRIQUE.

FROM THE SPANISH.

O, LET the soul her slumbers break,  
Let thought be quickened, and awake;  
Awake to see  
How soon this life is past and gone,  
And death comes softly stealing on,  
How silently!

Swiftly our pleasures glide away,  
Our hearts recall the distant day  
With many sighs;  
The moments that are speeding fast  
We heed not, but the past,—the past,—  
More highly prize.

Onward its course the present keeps,  
Onward the constant current sweeps,  
Till life is done;  
And, did we judge of time aright,  
The past and future in their flight  
Would be as one.

Let no one fondly dream again,  
That Hope and all her shadowy train  
Will not decay;  
Fleeting as were the dreams of old,  
Remembered like a tale that 's told,  
They pass away.

Our lives are rivers, gliding free  
To that unfathomed, boundless sea,  
The silent grave!  
Thither all earthly pomp and boast  
Roll, to be swallowed up and lost  
In one dark wave.

Thither the mighty torrents stray,  
Thither the brook pursues its way,  
And tinkling rill.  
There all are equal. Side by side  
The poor man and the son of pride  
Lie calm and still.

I will not here invoke the throng  
Of orators and sons of song,  
The deathless few;  
Fiction entices and deceives,  
And, sprinkled o'er her fragrant leaves,  
Lies poisonous dew.

To One alone my thoughts arise,  
The Eternal Truth,—the Good and  
Wise,—  
To Him I cry,  
Who shared on earth our common lot,  
But the world comprehended not  
His deity.

This world is but the rugged road  
Which leads us to the bright abode  
Of peace above;



So let us choose that narrow way,  
Which leads no traveller's foot astray  
From realms of love.

Our cradle is the starting-place,  
In life we run the onward race,  
And reach the goal;  
When, in the mansions of the blest,  
Death leaves to its eternal rest  
The weary soul.

Did we but use it as we ought,  
This world would school each wandering  
thought  
To its high state.  
Faith wings the soul beyond the sky,  
Up to that better world on high,  
For which we wait.

Yes, — the glad messenger of love,  
To guide us to our home above,  
The Saviour came;  
Born amid mortal cares and fears,  
He suffered in this vale of tears  
A death of shame.

Behold of what delusive worth  
The bubbles we pursue on earth,  
The shapes we chase,  
Amid a world of treachery!  
They vanish ere death shuts the eye,  
And leave no trace.

Time steals them from us, — chances strange,  
Disastrous accidents, and change,  
That come to all;  
Even in the most exalted state,  
Relentless sweeps the stroke of fate;  
The strongest fall.

Tell me, — the charms that lovers seek  
In the clear eye and blushing cheek,  
The hues that play  
O'er rosy lip and brow of snow,  
When hoary age approaches slow,  
Ah, where are they!

The cunning skill, the curious arts,  
The glorious strength that youth imparts  
In life's first stage;  
These shall become a heavy weight,  
When Time swings wide his outward gate  
To weary age.

The noble blood of Gothic name,  
Heroes emblazoned high to fame,  
In long array;  
How, in the onward course of time,  
The landmarks of that race sublime  
Were swept away!

Some, the degraded slaves of lust,  
Prostrate and trampled in the dust,  
Shall rise no more;  
Others, by guilt and crime, maintain  
The scutcheon, that, without a stain,  
Their fathers bore.

Wealth and the high estate of pride,  
With what untimely speed they glide,  
How soon depart!  
Bid not the shadowy phantoms stay,  
The vassals of a mistress they,  
Of fickle heart.

These gifts in Fortune's hands are  
found;  
Her swift-revolving wheel turns round,  
And they are gone!  
No rest the inconstant goddess knows,  
But changing, and without repose,  
Still hurries on.

Even could the hand of avarice save  
Its gilded bawbles, till the grave  
Reclaimed its prey,  
Let none on such poor hopes rely;  
Life, like an empty dream, flits by,  
And where are they!

Earthly desires and sensual lust  
Are passions springing from the dust, —  
They fade and die;  
But, in the life beyond the tomb,  
They seal the immortal spirit's doom  
Eternally!

The pleasures and delights, which mask  
In treacherous smiles life's serious task,  
What are they, all,  
But the fleet coursers of the chase,  
And death an ambush in the race,  
Wherein we fall!

No foe, no dangerous pass, we heed,  
Brook no delay, — but onward speed,  
With loosened rein;

And, when the fatal snare is near,  
We strive to check our mad career,  
But strive in vain.

Could we new charms to age impart,  
And fashion with a cunning art  
The human face,  
As we can clothe the soul with light,  
And make the glorious spirit bright  
With heavenly grace,—

How busily each passing hour  
Should we exert that magic power!  
What ardor show  
To deck the sensual slave of sin,  
Yet leave the freeborn soul within  
In weeds of woe!

Monarchs, the powerful and the strong,  
Famous in history and in song  
Of olden time,  
Saw, by the stern decrees of fate,  
Their kingdoms lost, and desolate  
Their race sublime.

Who is the champion? who the strong?  
Pontiff and priest, and sceptred throng!  
On these shall fall  
As heavily the hand of Death,  
As when it stays the shepherd's breath  
Beside his stall.

I speak not of the Trojan name,  
Neither its glory nor its shame  
Has met our eyes;  
Nor of Rome's great and glorious dead,  
Though we have heard so oft, and read,  
Their histories.

Little avails it now to know  
Of ages passed so long ago,  
Nor how they rolled;  
Our theme shall be of yesterday,  
Which to oblivion sweeps away,  
Like days of old.

Where is the king, Don Juan? Where  
Each royal prince and noble heir  
Of Aragon?  
Where are the courtly gallantries?  
The deeds of love and high emprise,  
In battle done?

Tourney and joust, that charmed the eye,  
And scarf, and gorgeous panoply,  
And nodding plume,—  
What were they but a pageant scene?  
What but the garlands, gay and green,  
That deck the tomb?

Where are the high-born dames, and where  
Their gay attire, and jewelled hair,  
And odors sweet?  
Where are the gentle knights, that came  
To kneel, and breathe love's ardent flame,  
Low at their feet?

Where is the song of 'Troubadour'?  
Where are the lute and gay tambour  
They loved of yore?  
Where is the mazy dance of old,  
The flowing robes, inwrought with gold,  
The dancers wore?

And he who next the sceptre swayed  
Henry, whose royal court displayed  
Such power and pride;  
O, in what winning smiles arrayed,  
The world its various pleasures laid  
His throne beside!

But, O, how false and full of guile  
That world, which wore so soft a smile  
But to betray!  
She, that had been his friend before,  
Now from the fated monarch tore  
Her charms away.

The countless gifts,—the stately walls,  
The royal palaces, and halls  
All filled with gold;  
Plate with armorial bearings wrought,  
Chambers with ample treasures fraught  
Of wealth untold;

The noble steeds, and harness bright,  
And gallant lord, and stalwart knight,  
In rich array,—  
Where shall we seek them now? Alas!  
Like the bright dewdrops on the grass,  
They passed away.

His brother, too, whose factious zeal  
Usurped the sceptre of Castile,  
Unskilled to reign;

What a gay, brilliant court had he,  
When all the flower of chivalry  
Was in his train !

But he was mortal ; and the breath  
That flamed from the hot forge of Death  
Blasted his years ;  
Judgment of God ! that flame by thee,  
When raging fierce and fearfully,  
Was quenched in tears !

Spain's haughty Constable, — the true  
And gallant Master, — whom we knew  
Most loved of all, —  
Breathe not a whisper of his pride ;  
He on the gloomy scaffold died, —  
Ignoble fall !

The countless treasures of his care,  
Hamlets and villas green and fair,  
His mighty power, —  
What were they all but grief and shame,  
Tears and a broken heart, when came  
The parting hour !

His other brothers, proud and high,  
Masters, who, in prosperity,  
Might rival kings ;  
Who made the bravest and the best  
The bondsmen of their high behest,  
Their underlings ;

What was their prosperous estate,  
When high exalted and elate  
With power and pride !  
What, but a transient gleam of light,  
A flame, which, glaring at its height,  
Grew dim and died !

So many a duke of royal name,  
Marquis and count of spotless fame,  
And baron brave,  
That might the sword of empire wield,  
All these, O Death, hast thou concealed  
In the dark grave !

Their deeds of mercy and of arms,  
In peaceful days, or war's alarms,  
When thou dost show,  
O Death, thy stern and angry face,  
One stroke of thy all-powerful mace  
Can overthrow.

Unnumbered hosts, that threaten nigh,  
Pennon and standard flaunting high,  
And flag displayed ;  
High battlements intrenched around,  
Bastion, and moated wall, and mound,  
And palisade,

And covered trench, secure and deep, —  
All these cannot one victim keep,  
O Death, from thee,  
When thou dost battle in thy wrath,  
And thy strong shafts pursue their path  
Unerringly.

O World ! so few the years we live,  
Would that the life which thou dost give  
Were life indeed !  
Alas ! thy sorrows fall so fast,  
Our happiest hour is when at last  
The soul is freed.

Our days are covered o'er with grief,  
And sorrows neither few nor brief  
Veil all in gloom ;  
Left desolate of real good,  
Within this cheerless solitude  
No pleasures bloom.

Thy pilgrimage begins in tears,  
And ends in bitter doubts and fears,  
Or dark despair ;  
Midway so many toils appear,  
That he who lingers longest here  
Knows most of care.

Thy goods are bought with many a groan  
By the hot sweat of toil alone,  
And weary hearts ;  
Fleet-footed is the approach of woe,  
But with a lingering step and slow  
Its form departs.

And he, the good man's shield and shade,  
To whom all hearts their homage paid,  
As Virtue's son, —  
Roderic Manrique, — he whose name  
Is written on the scroll of Fame,  
Spain's champion ;

His signal deeds and prowess high  
Demand no pompous eulogy, —  
Ye saw his deeds !

Why should their praise in verse be sung?  
The name that dwells on every tongue  
No minstrel needs.

To friends a friend ; — how kind to all  
The vassals of this ancient hall  
And feudal fief!  
To foes how stern a foe was he!  
And to the valiant and the free  
How brave a chief!

What prudence with the old and wise!  
What grace in youthful gayeties!  
In all how sage!  
Benignant to the serf and slave,  
He showed the base and falsely brave  
A lion's rage.

His was Octavian's prosperous star,  
The rush of Cæsar's conquering car  
At battle's call;  
His, Scipio's virtue; his, the skill  
And the indomitable will  
Of Hannibal.

His was a Trajan's goodness, — his  
A Titus' noble charities  
And righteous laws;  
The arm of Hector, and the might  
Of Tully, to maintain the right  
In truth's just cause;

The clemency of Antonine,  
Aurelius' countenance divine,  
Firm, gentle, still;  
The eloquence of Adrian,  
And Theodosius' love to man,  
And generous will;

In tented field and bloody fray,  
An Alexander's vigorous sway  
And stern command;  
The faith of Constantine; ay, more,  
The fervent love Camillus bore  
His native land.

He left no well-filled treasury,  
He heaped no pile of riches high,  
Nor massive plate;  
He fought the Moors, — and, in their fall,  
City and tower and castled wall  
Were his estate.

Upon the hard-fought battle-ground,  
Brave steeds and gallant riders found  
A common grave;  
And there the warrior's hand did gain  
The rents, and the long vassal train,  
That conquest gave.

And if, of old, his halls displayed  
The honored and exalted grade  
His worth had gained,  
So, in the dark, disastrous hour,  
Brothers and bondsmen of his power  
His hand sustained.

After high deeds, not left untold,  
In the stern warfare which of old  
'T was his to share,  
Such noble leagues he made, that more  
And fairer regions than before  
His guerdon were.

These are the records, half effaced,  
Which, with the hand of youth, he traced  
On history's page;  
But with fresh victories he drew  
Each fading character anew  
In his old age.

By his unrivalled skill, by great  
And veteran service to the state,  
By worth adored,  
He stood, in his high dignity,  
The proudest knight of chivalry,  
Knight of the Sword.

He found his cities and domains  
Beneath a tyrant's galling chains  
And cruel power;  
But, by fierce battle and blockade,  
Soon his own banner was displayed  
From every tower.

By the tried valor of his hand,  
His monarch and his native land  
Were nobly served; —  
Let Portugal repeat the story,  
And proud Castile, who shared the glory  
His arms deserved.

And when so oft, for weal or woe,  
His life upon the fatal throw  
Had been cast down;

When he had served, with patriot zeal,  
Beneath the banner of Castile,  
His sovereign's crown ;

And done such deeds of valor strong,  
That neither history nor song  
Can count them all ;  
Then, on Ocaña's castled rock,  
Death at his portal came to knock,  
With sudden call, —

Saying, " Good Cavalier, prepare  
To leave this world of toil and care  
With joyful mien ;  
Let thy strong heart of steel this day  
Put on its armor for the fray, —  
The closing scene.

" Since thou hast been, in battle-strife,  
So prodigal of health and life,  
For earthly fame,  
Let virtue nerve thy heart again ;  
Loud on the last stern battle-plain  
They call thy name.

" Think not the struggle that draws near  
Too terrible for man, — nor fear  
To meet the foe ;  
Nor let thy noble spirit grieve,  
Its life of glorious fame to leave  
On earth below.

" A life of honor and of worth  
Has no eternity on earth, —  
'T is but a name ;  
And yet its glory far exceeds  
That base and sensual life, which leads  
To want and shame.

" The eternal life, beyond the sky,  
Wealth cannot purchase, nor the high  
And proud estate ;  
The soul in dalliance laid, — the spirit  
Corrupt with sin, — shall not inherit  
A joy so great.

" But the good monk, in cloistered cell,  
Shall gain it by his book and bell,  
His prayers and tears ;  
And the brave knight, whose arm en-  
dures  
Fierce battle, and against the Moors  
His standard rears.

" And thou, brave knight, whose hand has  
poured  
The life-blood of the pagan horde  
O'er all the land,  
In heaven shalt thou receive, at length,  
The guerdon of thine earthly strength  
And dauntless hand.

" Cheered onward by this promise sure,  
Strong in the faith entire and pure  
Thou dost profess,  
Depart, — thy hope is certainty, —  
The third — the better life on high  
Shalt thou possess."

" O Death, no more, no more delay ;  
My spirit longs to flee away,  
And be at rest ;  
The will of Heaven my will shall be, —  
I bow to the divine decree,  
To God's behest.

" My soul is ready to depart,  
No thought rebels, the obedient heart  
Breathes forth no sigh ;  
The wish on earth to linger still  
Were vain, when 't is God's sovereign will  
That we shall die.

" O thou, that for our sins didst take  
A human form, and humbly make  
Thy home on earth ;  
Thou, that to thy divinity  
A human nature didst ally  
By mortal birth, —

" And in that form didst suffer here  
Torment, and agony, and fear,  
So patiently ;  
By thy redeeming grace alone,  
And not for merits of my own,  
O, pardon me !"

As thus the dying warrior prayed,  
Without one gathering mist or shade  
Upon his mind ;  
Encircled by his family,  
Watched by affection's gentle eye  
So soft and kind, —

His soul to Him who gave it rose.  
God lead it to its long repose,  
Its glorious rest !

And, though the warrior's sun has set,  
Its light shall linger round us yet,  
Bright, radiant, blest.\*

### THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

FROM THE SPANISH OF LOPE DE VEGA.

SHEPHERD! that with thine amorous, sylvan  
song  
Hast broken the slumber which encompassed  
me, —  
That mad'st thy crook from the accursed tree,  
On which thy powerful arms were stretched so  
long!

\* This poem of Manrique is a great favorite in Spain. No less than four poetic Glosses, or running commentaries, upon it have been published, no one of which, however, possesses great poetic merit. That of the Carthusian monk, Rodrigo de Valdepeñas, is the best. It is known as the *Glosa del Cartujo*. There is also a prose Commentary by Luis de Aranda.

The following stanzas of the poem were found in the author's pocket, after his death on the field of battle.

"O World! so few the years we live,  
Would that the life which thou dost give  
Were life indeed!  
Alas! thy sorrows fall so fast,  
Our happiest hour is when at last  
The soul is freed.

"Our days are covered o'er with grief,  
And sorrows neither few nor brief  
Veil all in gloom;  
Left desolate of real good,  
Within this cheerless solitude  
No pleasures bloom.

"Thy pilgrimage begins in tears,  
And ends in bitter doubts and fears,  
Or dark despair;  
Midway so many toils appear,  
That he who lingers longest here  
Knows most of care.

"Thy goods are bought with many a groan,  
By the hot sweat of toil alone,  
And weary hearts;  
Fleet-footed is the approach of woe,  
But with a lingering step and slow  
Its form departs."

Lead me to mercy's ever-flowing fountains;  
For thou my shepherd, guard, and guide shalt  
be;

I will obey thy voice, and wait to see  
Thy feet all beautiful upon the mountains.  
Hear, Shepherd! — thou who for thy flock art  
dying,

O, wash away these scarlet sins, for thou  
Rejoicest at the contrite sinner's vow.  
O, wait! — to thee my weary soul is crying, —  
Wait for me! — Yet why ask it, when I see,  
With feet nailed to the cross, thou 'rt waiting  
still for me!

### TO-MORROW.

FROM THE SPANISH OF LOPE DE VEGA.

LORD, what am I, that, with unceasing care,  
Thou didst seek after me, — that thou didst  
wait,

Wet with unhealthy dews, before my gate,  
And pass the gloomy nights of winter there!  
O, strange delusion, that I did not greet  
Thy blest approach! and, O, to Heaven how  
lost,

If my ingratitude's unkindly frost  
Has chilled the bleeding wounds upon thy feet.  
How oft my guardian angel gently cried,  
"Soul, from thy casement look, and thou shalt  
see

How he persists to knock and wait for thee!"  
And, O, how often to that voice of sorrow,  
"To-morrow we will open," I replied,  
And when the morrow came I answered still,  
"To-morrow."

### THE NATIVE LAND.

FROM THE SPANISH OF FRANCISCO DE ALDANA.

CLEAR fount of light! my native land on high,  
Bright with a glory that shall never fade!  
Mansion of truth! without a veil or shade,  
Thy holy quiet meets the spirit's eye.  
There dwells the soul in its ethereal essence,  
Gasping no longer for life's feeble breath;  
But, sentinelled in heaven, its glorious presence  
With pitying eye beholds, yet fears not, death.

Beloved country! banished from thy shore,  
A stranger in this prison-house of clay,  
The exiled spirit weeps and sighs for thee!  
Heavenward the bright perfections I adore  
Direct, and the sure promise cheers the way,  
That, whither love aspires, there shall my  
dwelling be.

### THE IMAGE OF GOD.

FROM THE SPANISH OF FRANCISCO DE ALDANA.

O LORD! that seest, from yon starry height,  
Centred in one the future and the past,  
Fashioned in thine own image, see how fast  
The world obscures in me what once was  
bright!

Eternal Sun! the warmth which thou hast  
given,

To cheer life's flowery April, fast decays;  
Yet, in the hoary winter of my days,  
For ever green shall be my trust in Heaven.  
Celestial King! O, let thy presence pass  
Before my spirit, and an image fair  
Shall meet that look of mercy from on high,  
As the reflected image in a glass  
Doth meet the look of him who seeks it there,  
And owes its being to the gazer's eye.

### THE BROOK.

FROM THE SPANISH.

LAUGH of the mountain!—lyre of bird and  
tree!

Pomp of the meadow! mirror of the morn!  
The soul of April, unto whom are born  
The rose and jessamine, leaps wild in thee!  
Although, where'er thy devious current strays,  
The lap of earth with gold and silver teems,  
To me thy clear proceeding brighter seems  
Than golden sands, that charm each shepherd's  
gaze.

How without guile thy bosom, all transparent  
As the pure crystal, lets the curious eye  
Thy secrets scan, thy smooth, round pebbles  
count!

How, without malice murmuring, glides thy  
current!

O sweet simplicity of days gone by!  
Thou shunn'st the haunts of man, to dwell in  
limpid fount!

### THE CELESTIAL PILOT.

FROM DANTE. PURGATORIO, II.

AND now, behold! as at the approach of  
morning,  
Through the gross vapors, Mars grows fiery  
red  
Down in the west upon the ocean floor,

Appeared to me,—may I again behold it!—  
A light along the sea, so swiftly coming,  
Its motion by no flight of wing is equalled.

And when therefrom I had withdrawn a little  
Mine eyes, that I might question my conductor,  
Again I saw it brighter grown and larger.

Thereafter, on all sides of it, appeared  
I knew not what of white, and underneath,  
Little by little, there came forth another.

My master yet had uttered not a word,  
While the first brightness into wings unfolded;  
But, when he clearly recognized the pilot,

He cried aloud; "Quick, quick, and bow the  
knee!

Behold the Angel of God! fold up thy hands!  
Henceforward shalt thou see such officers!

"See, how he scorns all human arguments,  
So that no oar he wants, nor other sail  
Than his own wings, between so distant shores!

"See, how he holds them, pointed straight to  
heaven,

Fanning the air with the eternal pinions,  
That do not moult themselves like mortal  
hair!"

And then, as nearer and more near us came  
The Bird of Heaven, more glorious he ap-  
peared,  
So that the eye could not sustain his presence,

But down I cast it; and he came to shore  
With a small vessel, gliding swift and light,  
So that the water swallowed naught thereof.

Upon the stern stood the Celestial Pilot!  
Beatitude seemed written in his face!  
And more than a hundred spirits sat within.



"*In exitu Israel* out of Egypt!"

Thus sang they all together in one voice,  
With whatso in that Psalm is after written.

Then made he sign of holy rood upon them,  
Whereat all cast themselves upon the shore,  
And he departed swiftly as he came.

### THE TERRESTRIAL PARADISE.

FROM DANTE. PURGATORIO, XXVIII.

LONGING already to search in and round  
The heavenly forest, dense and living-green,  
Which to the eyes tempered the new-born  
day,

Withouten more delay I left the bank,  
Crossing the level country slowly, slowly,  
Over the soil, that everywhere breathed fra-  
grance.

A gently-breathing air, that no mutation  
Had in itself, smote me upon the forehead, —  
No heavier blow than of a pleasant breeze:

Whereat the tremulous branches readily  
Did all of them bow downward towards that  
side

Where its first shadow casts the Holy Moun-  
tain;

Yet not from their upright direction bent,  
So that the little birds upon their tops  
Should cease the practice of their tuneful  
art;

But, with full-throated joy, the hours of prime  
Singing received they in the midst of foliage  
That made monotonous burden to their rhymes;

Even as from branch to branch it gathering  
swells  
Through the pine forests on the shore of  
Chiassi,  
When Æolus unlooses the Sirocco.

Already my slow steps had led me on  
Into the ancient wood so far, that I  
Could see no more the place where I had  
entered;

And lo! my farther course cut off a river,  
Which, towards the left hand, with its little  
waves,  
Bent down the grass that on its margin  
sprang.

All waters that on earth most limpid are  
Would seem to have within themselves some  
mixture,  
Compared with that, which nothing doth con-  
ceal,

Although it moves on with a brown, brown  
current,  
Under the shade perpetual, that never  
Ray of the sun lets in, nor of the moon.

### BEATRICE.

FROM DANTE. PURGATORIO, XXX., XXXI.

EVEN as the Blessed, in the new covenant,  
Shall rise up quickened, each one from his  
grave,  
Wearing again the garments of the flesh,

So, upon that celestial chariot,  
A hundred rose *ad vocem tanti senis*,  
Ministers and messengers of life eternal.

They all were saying; "*Benedictus qui venis*,"  
And scattering flowers above and round about,  
"*Manibus o date lilia plenis*."

I once beheld, at the approach of day,  
The orient sky all stained with roseate hues,  
And the other heaven with light serene  
adorned,

And the sun's face uprising, overshadowed,  
So that, by temperate influence of vapors,  
The eye sustained his aspect for long while;

Thus in the bosom of a cloud of flowers,  
Which from those hands angelic were thrown  
up,  
And down descended inside and without,

With crown of olive o'er a snow-white veil,  
Appeared a lady, under a green mantle,  
Vested in colors of the living flame.



Even as the snow, among the living rafters  
Upon the back of Italy, congeals,  
Blown on and beaten by Slavonian winds,

And then, dissolving, filters through itself,  
Whene'er the land, that loses shadow, breathes,  
Like as a taper melts before a fire,

Even such I was, without a sigh or tear,  
Before the song of those who chime for ever  
After the chiming of the eternal spheres ;

But, when I heard in those sweet melodies  
Compassion for me, more than had they said,  
" O, wherefore, lady, dost thou thus consume  
him ? "

The ice, that was about my heart congealed,  
To air and water changed, and, in my anguish,  
Through lips and eyes came gushing from my  
breast.

Confusion and dismay, together mingled,  
Forced such a feeble " Yes ! " out of my  
mouth,  
To understand it one had need of sight.

Even as a cross-bow breaks, when 't is dis-  
charged,  
Too tensely drawn the bow-string and the bow,  
And with less force the arrow hits the mark ;

So I gave way under this heavy burden,  
Gushing forth into bitter tears and sighs,  
And the voice, fainting, flagged upon its pas-  
sage.

### SPRING.

FROM THE FRENCH OF CHARLES D'ORLEANS.

XV. CENTURY.

GENTLE Spring, in sunshine clad,  
Well dost thou thy power display !  
For Winter maketh the light heart sad,  
And thou — thou makest the sad heart gay.  
He sees thee, and calls to his gloomy train,  
The sleet, and the snow, and the wind, and  
the rain ;  
And they shrink away, and they flee in fear,  
When thy merry step draws near.

Winter giveth the fields and the trees, so old,  
Their beards of icicles and snow ;  
And the rain, it raineth so fast and cold,  
We must cower over the embers low ;  
And, snugly housed from the wind and weather,  
Mope like birds that are changing feather.  
But the storm retires, and the sky grows clear,  
When thy merry step draws near.

Winter maketh the sun in the gloomy sky  
Wrap him round with a mantle of cloud ;  
But, Heaven be praised, thy step is nigh ;  
Thou tearest away the mournful shroud,  
And the earth looks bright, and Winter surly,  
Who has toiled for naught both late and early,  
Is banished afar by the new-born year,  
When thy merry step draws near.

### THE CHILD ASLEEP.

FROM THE FRENCH.

SWEET babe ! true portrait of thy father's face !  
Sleep on the bosom that thy lips have pressed !  
Sleep, little one ; and closely, gently place  
Thy drowsy eyelid on thy mother's breast !

Upon that tender eye, my little friend,  
Soft sleep shall come, that cometh not to me !  
I watch to see thee, nourish thee, defend ; —  
'T is sweet to watch for thee, — alone for  
thee !

His arms fall down ; sleep sits upon his brow ;  
His eye is closed ; he sleeps, nor dreams of  
harm.

Wore not his cheek the apple's ruddy glow,  
Would you not say he slept on Death's cold  
arm !

Awake, my boy ! — I tremble with affright ! —  
Awake, and chase this fatal thought ! — Un-  
close

Thine eye but for one moment on the light !  
Even at the price of thine, give me repose !

Sweet error ! — he but slept, — I breathe  
again ; —

Come, gentle dreams, the hour of sleep be-  
guile !

O, when shall he, for whom I sigh in vain,  
Beside me watch to see thy waking smile ?

THE GRAVE.

FROM THE ANGLO-SAXON.

For thee was a house built  
Ere thou wert born,  
For thee was a mould meant  
Ere thou of mother earnest.  
But it is not made ready,  
Nor its depth measured,  
Nor is it seen  
How long it shall be.  
Now I bring thee  
Where thou shalt be ;  
Now I shall measure thee,  
And the mould afterwards.

Thy house is not  
Highly timbered,  
It is unhigh and low ;  
When thou art therein,  
The heel-ways are low,  
The side-ways unhigh.  
The roof is built  
Thy breast full nigh,  
So thou shalt in mould  
Dwell full cold,  
Dimly and dark.

Doorless is that house,  
And dark it is within ;  
There thou art fast detained,  
And Death hath the key.  
Loathsome is that earth-house,  
And grim within to dwell.  
There thou shalt dwell,  
And worms shall divide thee.

Thus thou art laid,  
And leavest thy friends ;  
Thou hast no friend  
Who will come to thee,  
Who will ever see  
How that house pleaseth thee,  
Who will ever open  
The door for thee,  
And descend after thee ;  
For soon thou art loathsome  
And hateful to see.

KING CHRISTIAN.

A NATIONAL SONG OF DENMARK.

FROM THE DANISH OF JOHANNES EVALD.

KING CHRISTIAN stood by the lofty mast  
In mist and smoke ;  
His sword was hammering so fast,  
Through Gothic helm and brain it passed ;  
Then sank each hostile hulk and mast,  
In mist and smoke.  
“ Fly ! ” shouted they, “ fly, he who can !  
Who braves of Denmark’s Christian  
The stroke ! ”

Nils Juel gave heed to the tempest’s roar,  
Now is the hour !  
He hoisted his blood-red flag once more,  
And smote upon the foe full sore,  
And shouted loud, through the tempest’s roar,  
“ Now is the hour ! ”  
“ Fly ! ” shouted they, “ for shelter fly !  
Of Denmark’s Juel who can defy  
The power ! ”

North Sea ! a glimpse of Wessel rent  
Thy murky sky !  
Then champions to thine arms were sent ;  
Terror and Death glared where he went ;  
From the waves was heard a wail, that rent  
Thy murky sky !  
From Denmark thunders Tordenskiol’ ;  
Let each to Heaven commend his soul,  
And fly !

Path of the Dane to fame and might !  
Dark-rolling wave !  
Receive thy friend, who, scorning flight,  
Goes to meet danger with despite,  
Proudly as thou the tempest’s might,  
Dark-rolling wave !  
And amid pleasures and alarms,  
And war and victory, be thine arms  
My grave ! \*

\* Nils Juel was a celebrated Danish Admiral, and Peder Wessel, a Vice-Admiral, who for his great prowess received the popular title of Tordenskiold, or *Thunder-shield*. In childhood he was a tailor’s apprentice, and rose to his high rank before the age of twenty-eight, when he was killed in a duel.

## THE HAPPIEST LAND.

FRAGMENT OF A MODERN BALLAD.

FROM THE GERMAN.

THERE sat one day in quiet,  
By an alehouse on the Rhine,  
Four hale and hearty fellows,  
And drank the precious wine.

The landlord's daughter filled their cups,  
Around the rustic board ;  
Then sat they all so calm and still,  
And spake not one rude word.

But, when the maid departed,  
A Swabian raised his hand,  
And cried, all hot and flushed with wine,  
" Long live the Swabian land !

" The greatest kingdom upon earth  
Cannot with that compare ;  
With all the stout and hardy men  
And the nut-brown maidens there."

" Ha ! " cried a Saxon, laughing, —  
And dashed his beard with wine ;  
" I had rather live in Lapland,  
Than that Swabian land of thine !

" The goodliest land on all this earth,  
It is the Saxon land  
There have I as many maidens  
As fingers on this hand ! "

" Hold your tongues ! both Swabian and  
Saxon ! "

A bold Bohemian cries ;  
" If there 's a heaven upon this earth,  
In Bohemia it lies.

" There the tailor blows the flute,  
And the cobbler blows the horn,  
And the miner blows the bugle,  
Over mountain gorge and bourn."

And then the landlord's daughter  
Up to heaven raised her hand,  
And said, " Ye may no more contend, —  
There lies the happiest land ! "

## THE WAVE.

FROM THE GERMAN OF TIEDGE.

" WHITHER, thou turbid wave !  
Whither, with so much haste,  
As if a thief wert thou ! "

" I am the Wave of Life,  
Stained with my margin's dust ;  
From the struggle and the strife  
Of the narrow stream I fly  
To the Sea's immensity,  
To wash from me the slime  
Of the muddy banks of Time."

## THE DEAD.

FROM THE GERMAN OF KLOPSTOCK.

How they so softly rest,  
All, all the holy dead,  
Unto whose dwelling-place  
Now doth my soul draw near !  
How they so softly rest,  
All in their silent graves,  
Deep to corruption  
Slowly down-sinking !

And they no longer weep,  
Here, where complaint is still !  
And they no longer feel,  
Here, where all gladness flies !  
And, by the cypresses  
Softly o'ershadowed,  
Until the Angel  
Calls them, they slumber !

## THE BIRD AND THE SHIP.

FROM THE GERMAN OF MÜLLER.

" THE rivers rush into the sea,  
By castle and town they go ;  
The winds behind them merrily  
Their noisy trumpets blow.

" The clouds are passing far and high,  
We little birds in them play ;  
And every thing, that can sing and fly,  
Goes with us, and far away.

"I greet thee, bonny boat! Whither, or  
whence,

With thy fluttering golden band!" —

"I greet thee, little bird! To the wide sea  
I haste from the narrow land.

"Full and swollen is every sail;

I see no longer a hill,

I have trusted all to the sounding gale,  
And it will not let me stand still.

"And wilt thou, little bird, go with us?

Thou may'st stand on the mainmast tall,

For full to sinking is my house

With merry companions all."

"I need not and seek not company,

Bonny boat, I can sing all alone;

For the mainmast tall too heavy am I,

Bonny boat, I have wings of my own.

"High over the sails, high over the mast,

Who shall gainsay these joys?

When thy merry companions are still, at  
last,

Thou shalt hear the sound of my voice.

"Who neither may rest, nor listen may,

God bless them every one!

I dart away, in the bright blue day,

And the golden fields of the sun.

"Thus do I sing my weary song,

Wherever the four winds blow;

And this same song, my whole life long,

Neither poet nor printer may know."

### WHITHER?

FROM THE GERMAN OF MÜLLER.

I HEARD a brooklet gushing

From its rocky fountain near,

Down into the valley rushing;

So fresh and wondrous clear.

I know not what came o'er me,

Nor who the counsel gave;

But I must hasten downward,

All with my pilgrim-stave;

Downward, and ever farther,  
And ever the brook beside;  
And ever fresher murmured,  
And ever clearer, the tide.

Is this the way I was going?

Whither, O brooklet, say!

Thou hast, with thy soft murmur,  
Murmured my senses away.

What do I say of a murmur?

That can no murmur be;

'T is the water-nymphs, that are singing  
Their roundelays under me.

Let them sing, my friend, let them  
murmur,

And wander merrily near;

The wheels of a mill are going  
In every brooklet clear.

### BEWARE!

FROM THE GERMAN.

I KNOW a maiden fair to see,

Take care!

She can both false and friendly be,

Beware! Beware!

Trust her not,

She is fooling thee!

She has two eyes, so soft and brown,

Take care!

She gives a side-glance and looks down,

Beware! Beware!

Trust her not,

She is fooling thee!

And she has hair of a golden hue,

Take care!

And what she says, it is not true,

Beware! Beware!

Trust her not,

She is fooling thee!

She has a bosom as white as snow,

Take care!

She knows how much it is best to show,

Beware! Beware!

Trust her not,

She is fooling thee!

She gives thee a garland woven fair,  
Take care !  
It is a fool's-cap for thee to wear,  
Beware ! Beware !  
Trust her not,  
She is fooling thee !

### SONG OF THE BELL.

FROM THE GERMAN.

BELL ! thou soundest merrily,  
When the bridal party  
To the church doth hie !  
Bell ! thou soundest solemnly,  
When, on Sabbath morning,  
Fields deserted lie !

Bell ! thou soundest merrily ;  
Teldest thou at evening,  
Bed-time draweth nigh !  
Bell ! thou soundest mournfully ;  
Teldest thou the bitter  
Parting hath gone by !

Say ! how canst thou mourn ?  
How canst thou rejoice ?  
Thou art but metal dull !  
And yet all our sorrowings,  
And all our rejoicings,  
Thou dost feel them all !

God hath wonders many,  
Which we cannot fathom,  
Placed within thy form !  
When the heart is sinking,  
Thou alone canst raise it,  
Trembling in the storm !

### THE CASTLE BY THE SEA.

FROM THE GERMAN OF UHLAND.

"HAST thou seen that lordly castle,  
That castle by the sea ?  
Golden and red above it  
The clouds float gorgeously.

"And fain it would stoop downward  
To the mirrored wave below ;

And fain it would soar upward  
In the evening's crimson glow."

"Well have I seen that castle,  
That castle by the sea,  
And the moon above it standing,  
And the mist rise solemnly."

"The winds and the waves of ocean,  
Had they a merry chime ?  
Didst thou hear, from those lofty chambers,  
The harp and the minstrel's rhyme ?"

"The winds and the waves of ocean,  
They rested quietly,  
But I heard on the gale a sound of wail,  
And tears came to mine eye."

"And sawest thou on the turrets  
The king and his royal bride ?  
And the wave of their crimson mantles ?  
And the golden crown of pride ?

"Led they not forth, in rapture,  
A beauteous maiden there ?  
Resplendent as the morning sun,  
Beaming with golden hair ?"

"Well saw I the ancient parents,  
Without the crown of pride ;  
They were moving slow, in weeds of woe,  
No maiden was by their side !"

### THE BLACK KNIGHT.

FROM THE GERMAN OF UHLAND.

'T WAS Pentecost, the Feast of Gladness,  
When woods and fields put off all sadness.  
Thus began the king and spake :

"So from the halls  
Of ancient Hofburg's walls,  
A luxuriant spring shall break."

Drums and trumpets echo loudly,  
Wave the crimson banners proudly.  
From balcony the king looked on ;  
In the play of spears,  
Fell all the cavaliers  
Before the monarch's stalwart son.

To the barrier of the fight  
Rode at last a sable knight.

"Sir Knight! your name and scutcheon?  
say!"

"Should I speak it here,  
Ye would stand aghast with fear;  
I 'm a prince of mighty sway!"

When he rode into the lists,  
The arch of heaven grew black with mists,  
And the castle 'gan to rock.  
At the first blow,  
Fell the youth from saddle-bow,—  
Hardly rises from the shock.

Pipe and viol call the dances,  
Torch-light through the high halls glances,  
Waves a mighty shadow in;  
With manner bland  
Doth ask the maiden's hand,  
Doth with her the dance begin;

Danced in sable iron sark,  
Danced a measure weird and dark,  
Coldly clasped her limbs around.  
From breast and hair  
Down fall from her the fair  
Flowerets, faded, to the ground.

To the sumptuous banquet came  
Every knight and every dame.  
'Twixt son and daughter all distraught,  
With mournful mind  
The ancient king reclined,  
Gazed at them in silent thought.

Pale the children both did look,  
But the guest a beaker took:  
"Golden wine will make you whole!"  
The children drank,  
Gave many a courteous thank:  
"O, that draught was very cool!"

Each the father's breast embraces,  
Son and daughter; and their faces  
Colorless grow utterly.

Whichever way  
Looks the fear-struck father gray,  
He beholds his children die.

"Woe! the blessed children both  
Takest thou in the joy of youth;  
Take me, too, the joyless father!"  
Spake the grim guest,  
From his hollow, cavernous breast:  
"Roses in the spring I gather!"

### SONG OF THE SILENT LAND.

FROM THE GERMAN OF SALIS.

Into the Silent Land!  
Ah! who shall lead us thither?  
Clouds in the evening sky more darkly gather,  
And shattered wrecks lie thicker on the strand.  
Who leads us with a gentle hand  
Thither, O, thither,  
Into the Silent Land!

Into the Silent Land!  
To you, ye boundless regions  
Of all perfection! Tender morning-visions  
Of beauteous souls! The Future's pledge  
and band!  
Who in Life's battle firm doth stand  
Shall bear Hope's tender blossoms  
Into the Silent Land!

O Land! O Land!  
For all the broken-hearted  
The mildest herald by our fate allotted  
Beckons, and with inverted torch doth stand  
To lead us with a gentle hand  
Into the land of the great departed,  
Into the Silent Land!

## L'ENVOI.

Ye voices, that arose  
After the Evening's close,  
And whispered to my restless heart repose !

Go, breathe it in the ear  
Of all who doubt and fear,  
And say to them, " Be of good cheer ! "

Ye sounds, so low and calm,  
That in the groves of balm  
Seemed to me like an angel's psalm !

Go, mingle yet once more  
With the perpetual roar  
Of the pine forest, dark and hoar !

Tongues of the dead, not lost,  
But speaking from death's frost,  
Like fiery tongues at Pentecost !

Glimmer, as funeral lamps,  
Amid the chills and damps  
Of the vast plain where Death encamps !

THE END.

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